

making claim 23 independent.

The Examiner rejected claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sachs (US Des 341,127), stating that Sachs shows a bolt having a head at one end, a threaded shank at an opposite end with a non-round portion between the head and shank and a cross-section. The Applicant wishes to point out that claim 18 states, “said bolt having a hole at or near the junction of the non-round cross section and the round threaded portion.” Sachs has a slot located within the non-round cross section not near or at the junction, such slot being so large a size in proportion to the bolt it would not readily facilitate it being used for the purpose for which of the cross hole specified by claim 18 is used as depicted in the specifications and drawings. Applicant respectfully asks the Examiner to reconsider his rejection of claim 18 in view of this.

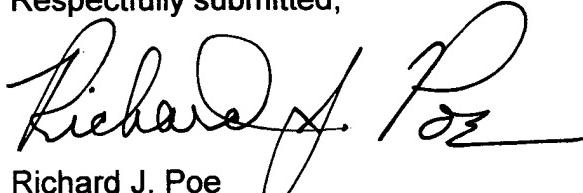
The Examiner rejected claims 22 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by MacLean (US 2,395,377). In view of MacLean the Applicant cancels claims 22 and 25.

The Examiner rejected claims 20, 23, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over MacLean and in view of Emerson (US 2,370,944). The Examiner holds that MacLean discloses a threaded nut as a retainer and that Emerson discloses a bolt held in securement with a rail member by a retainer formed as a cotter key received through a cross-hole in the bolt. This Applicant wishes to point out that neither MacLean nor Emerson works in the fashion as his invention. The purpose of MacLean is to secure the bolts with the nuts near the head of the

bolts so they remain ridged (firm) not to prevent rotation when the outer nuts are tightened or loosened. The purpose of Emerson is to prevent screws from working out of their threaded engagement albeit to prevent rotation but not while outer nuts are being tightened or loosened. It is difficult for this Applicant to see how the "lock washer-like member" of Emerson can be referred to as a "rail member" by the Examiner as each "lock washer-like member" is connected to only one screw. For these reasons it does not seem to this Applicant that the existence of MacLean and Emerson would teach one of ordinary skill in the art how to arrive at the Applicant's invention. Applicant respectfully asks the Examiner to reconsider his rejection of claims 20, 23, and 27.

A copy of Applicants claims revision is included.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard J. Poe".

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